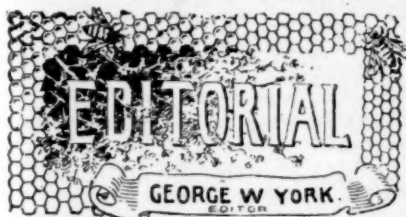


MASSACHUSETTS
AGRICULTURAL

ESTABLISHED IN 1861
THE AMERICAN
OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA
BEE JOURNAL

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VOL. XXXIV. CHICAGO, ILL., AUG. 30, 1894. NO. 9.



North American Date Changed

—The Executive Committee have decided upon the following:

In order to let all bee-keepers who can, take advantage of the "Harvest Excursion" rates which will be given on October 9th, we have concluded to change the date of the meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association to **October 10th, 11th and 12th**. The rate will be $\frac{1}{2}$ fare plus \$2.00. These rates apply EAST of the Missouri River only. Ask your railroad agent about them.

Special rates of $1\frac{1}{2}$ fare will no doubt be secured in the territory covered by the Western Passenger Association. These will be announced later, if secured.

EMERSON T. ABBOTT, Pres.

St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 25, 1894.

☞ Agricultural papers will please call attention to the change of date.

The Fathers have this week something good to read in the department called "Our Doctor's Hints," on page 267. Be sure to read it, and heed it, fathers, for it will pay you. Dr. Peiro is a man of extended experience, and knows what he is talking about whenever he says anything in his department. We wish that his hints to mothers last week, and to fathers this week, could be read by all the parents in the land. It would no doubt be a grand, good thing.

Prof. Cook informs us that it will be impossible for him to be at the St. Joseph meeting of the North American, in October. It comes during term time at the Pomona College, and the Professor says he cannot then get away. That's just as we expected, when we heard he was going to reside permanently in California! We fear his Eastern friends will never see him again, unless they should some time go to Claremont.

It seems to us that the California State Bee-Keepers' Association might select him as a delegate, furnish the financial means to go, and then order him to attend the North American meeting. As Prof. Cook is the President of their association, we'll bet a "Cook-y" he'd find some way to leave his college work for two weeks! Why not do it, Californians? It would help your State greatly.

☞ Whatever requires doing about the apiary, should be done at once. If left for another day, an important matter is liable to be forgotten when many other things require attention, and considerable loss ensues. — *Simmins*.

Bro. Ernest R. Root, as we mentioned last week, reached our office on Wednesday, Aug. 22nd. He had been on a bicycle trip mainly for his health, through southern Michigan and northern Illinois. On account of the hard wheeling in the Michigan sand, he had been delayed—so much so that he could stop at the BEE JOURNAL office only a few hours. This we regretted very much, as we had counted on having a longer visit with our brother editor. But you may believe we improved

every minute of the time in an E(a)rnest way, and were very pleased to have the opportunity to get better acquainted with the popular associate editor of America's illustrated bee-paper—*Gleanings in Bee-Culture*.

We had met Bro. Root only once before—at the Columbian meeting of the North American last fall—but from the time we first became editor of the BEE JOURNAL—over two years ago—we have had the feeling that in him we indeed had a true friend and brother. That "feeling" is well-founded, especially as Bro. Root and the writer are so nearly the same age—only 4 months difference. Bro. Root, before arriving here, had been to see Dr. Mason, M. H. Hunt, Hon. R. L. Taylor, W. Z. Hutchinson, and others. From here he went to see Dr. Miller, and after that he expected to go direct to his home in Medina, O. In all, he would be away about two weeks, and hoped to have fully recuperated tired energies, and be ready to take up his work again with renewed powers. Doubtless the readers of *Gleanings* will soon be favored with a full report of his wanderings.

Well Pleased.—Rev. Wm. F. Clarke, of Guelph, Ont., writing us on Aug. 17th, said:

FRIEND YORK:—I want to say while I am writing, that I am well pleased with your conduct of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. Take it for all in all, it still heads the procession of bee-journals. Of course it is not perfect, but it is good, very good.

I like Dr. Peiro's articles. Your paper will be worth all it costs, and far more, for that new departure, which ought to bring you lots of subscribers. I have often thought what a pity it is doctors do not tell people how to avoid disease. Dr. Miller's paragraph on page 210 is apropos.

Yours truly, WM. F. CLARKE.

Honey for Sick Canaries is recommended in the following, which Dr. Peiro translated for us from a French bee-paper:

The *Revue Internationale D'Apiculteur* copies from a Spanish bee-paper as follows: The cold, wet weather occasions a sickness to canaries that begins by loss of glossiness of the plumage, and a drowsiness of movement. Their voice becomes rasping and unpleasant, and finally a complete loss. A little honey is warmed and dropped on a piece of bread, and fed to the sick bird for several days. It is said to restore its voice and vigor.

Many Bee-Keepers are Sunday-school men, and Dr. Miller is one of them. A township Sunday-school convention was recently held at Marengo, Ill. (the Doctor's home), and here is what the Marengo *Republican* said about one of the parts taken by Dr. M.:

The Question-Box, conducted by Dr. Miller, was a source of much interest, and elicited close attention. The Doctor has a remarkable tact of "getting on" these questions, many of them knotty and hard, but he has a solution ready and to the point in every case. This formed a most interesting part of the programme, and rounded out the success of the convention in fine form.

Yes, Dr. Miller is quite at home at conventions, and everybody hopes to see him at St. Joseph, in October. Why not put him at the "Question-Box" at that time? He's good at answering questions, for when he doesn't know the answer, he simply says—"I don't"—well, all *know* the rest of his "answer."

Mr. Lewis M. Smith, Canandaigua, N. Y., was recently visited by a representative of the local newspaper at that place, who "wrote up" his experiences and published them. Mrs. Smith, in the absence of Mr. S., furnished the visitor with much interesting information about bees. It is always a good idea to encourage such callers, and thus help to advertise and get the public better acquainted with the products of the apiary.

Popular Talks on Law have been given in each number of the *Progressive Bee-Keeper* lately. They are very interesting, indeed, and no doubt will help many folks to keep out of trouble. "Observer" is another of the *Progressive's* entertaining nom-de-plumistic writers, and had this to say in the August number:

The AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is giving us a medical department; the *Progressive* is turning its attention to the law; while *Gleanings* supplies the gospel. Surely, we "bee-folks" ought to be well posted.

Yes, bee-keepers that are well doctored, and enjoying their lawful rights while being safely directed on their way to Heaven, ought not only be "well posted," but also happy, if any people can be Medicine—Law—Gospel. What more can be desired?

Honey Ruined by Moths.—One morning last week we received the following note from one of the largest dealers in honey in Chicago:

GEORGE W. YORK, Esq.—

Dear Sir:—If you will call before noon today, we can furnish you with an item of interest.

Yours truly,

HONEY-DEALER.

We omit the real name signed to the above, as well as the signature of this letter, which accompanied a shipment of honey to the dealer referred to:

WISCONSIN, Aug. 17, 1894.

Dear Sir:—We ship to-day over 100 cases of comb honey, mostly white clover. There is a little dark honey with it. The face will tell you. It is put up as well as we know how. Trusting you will get all it is worth, we are,

Yours truly,

HONEY-BEES.

Having called at Mr. Honey-Dealer's office, he took us to the rear of the warehouse, and directed his experienced employe to open a few of the crates sent in by "Honey-Bees." He did so, and in the center of nearly every 12-section crate of otherwise nice looking honey, were several sections totally destroyed by the moths. Between the sections the moth-nests, as well as the full-grown and larval moths, could be seen. What an unsightly thing it was—to see the beautiful sections of honey so completely demolished.

Of course, all the dealer could do, was to write the shippers about the condition the honey was received in, and hold it subject to their order. It was useless to try to sell it without first re-crating, and throwing out the filthy-looking and moth-destroyed sections.

It seems to us that a good lesson should be learned from the foregoing account. *Be sure* that your honey is in good condition when it leaves your hands. Don't crate it until ready to ship. Keep the moths out of it by sulphur fumigation, the details of which have so often been described in these columns, and which may be found in all the best bee-books.

What shall it profit a bee-keeper, if he does gain a good crop of doney, and then lets the moths destroy it? Why work hard to produce it, and by carelessness afterward permit it to be ruined and lost?

We notice that the producers in question, are not readers of the BEE JOURNAL, and perhaps do not take any other bee-paper. You see, they will now lose perhaps fifty to

one hundred dollars, when in all probability had they been readers of the bee-papers, such loss would have been avoided. In other words, it *pays* to be *posted* in any business in order to make a success of it.

The Illinois State Fair will be held at Springfield on Sept. 24th to 29th. The aparian department is represented by the following liberal Premium List:

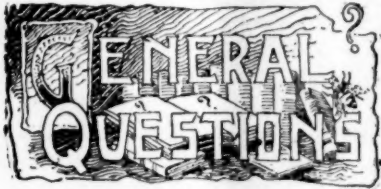
BEES AND HONEY.

	1st.	2nd.
Display of comb honey.....	\$10 00	\$5 00
Case comb honey, 12 to 24 lbs..	5 00	3 00
Display of extracted honey....	10 00	5 00
Display of samples of extracted honey.....	3 00	2 00
Display of candied honey.....	5 00	3 00
Display of beeswax.....	5 00	3 00
Nucleus of Italian bees in observatory hive	5 00	3 00
Display of aparian implements and devices not otherwise provided for.....	5 00	3 00
Display of queen-bees in cages.	5 00	3 00
Honey extractor in operation..	10 00	5 00
Wax extractor.....	2 00	1 00
Comb foundation machine in operation	3 00	2 00
Honey-vinegar, one gallon....	2 00	1 00

We wish to urge upon bee-keepers of this State the importance of making an *extra effort* this year, as the honey crop is short, and those who have *any at all* should make it known to the Secretary of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association—Jas. A. Stone, Bradfordton, Ill.—or to some of the State Fair officials, so that arrangements can be made to have our interests properly represented. As the time is short, let there be prompt action in the matter.

Bro. Jas. A. Stone, the active Secretary of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association, has been annoyed greatly by chicken thieves lately. He succeeded in landing two of them in jail, but one escaped. Bro. Stone's bright son attached wires from the hen-house door to an electric bell in his bed-room, and in that way "cotched" the rogues. Now if a few of them could only be "electrocuted," it would somewhat lessen the supply of chicken thieves, and also make the chicken business more profitable for honest people.

Turpentine applied to ant-hills is recommended as being efficient in inducing the ants to "move on."



ANSWERED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER,
MARENGO, ILL.

In this department will be answered those questions needing IMMEDIATE attention, and such as are not of sufficient special interest to require replies from the 20 or more apiarists who help to make "Queries and Replies" so interesting on another page. In the main, it will contain questions and answers upon matters that particularly interest beginners.—Ed.

To Prevent Crystallizing of Syrup.

Will you please give a method whereby I can make sugar syrup with granulated sugar that won't crystallize? I have tried time and again, but it would always crystallize. The last time I put two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar in three gallons of syrup, and that crystallized also. I see by your book, "A Year Among the Bees," that you use cream of tartar, but do not say how much per gallon. L. S.

Aurora, Ill.

ANSWER.—If you will turn to page 83 of the book mentioned, you will find, "An even teaspoonful of tartaric acid for every 20 pounds of sugar is stirred into the syrup about the time the sugar is dissolved." As I use tartaric acid, it would take a good deal more cream of tartar. I think this syrup will granulate if it stands long enough out of the hive, but I've never been troubled to amount to anything after the bees put it in the combs.

A. I. Root insists that no acid is needed, and he succeeds without it. On the other hand, Mr. Burrell reported that his syrup became solid in the combs in spite of his using acid. I don't know what makes the difference unless it be the sugar. Perhaps slower feeding might make a little difference, although I've generally fed as fast as the bees would take it.

A Queen Question—Drones.

1. What became of my queen? I went to look in the hive and found queen-cells with larvæ (or queens) 4 to

6 days old, showing the queens had been started 3 or 4 days. I also found worker-eggs 1 to 3 days old, showing the queen laid the worker-eggs after the bees had started the queen-cells. The queen was a very fine, large, dark yellow 5-bander, and very prolific, so I could not see why she should be superseded; that is, if she was. I bought her in May as an untested queen. Her workers were very good and well marked, so it is a conundrum to me what became of her. She was clipped, on one wing.

2. If we allow only worker-comb in a hive, what will the bees do for drones—will they be satisfied with no drones, or will the queen lay drone-eggs in worker-cells? and would such drones be good to mate queens?

My crop is 2,250 pounds of comb honey, from 38 colonies, spring count, increased to 76 colonies. G. D. L.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 7.

ANSWERS.—1. You don't give any date. If it was at the proper season for it, there is nothing in the circumstances against the belief that the bees swarmed and returned, the clipped queen being lost. She may have been superseded, for sometimes a queen falls all at once and the bees seem to have an instinctive knowledge of it.

2. They'll do pretty much without, building a few drone-cells in any space that is unfilled. No drones will be reared in worker-cells if the queen is all right.

Feeding Bees—Building Comb.

1. When bees swarm late, and are rather weak, what time is the best to feed them, that they may have plenty to winter on? and how?

2. Is it a good idea to feed in the spring to make them swarm early?

3. Do they make comb through "dog days"—that is, in August and part of September? G. S.

Tigart's Valley, N. Y.

ANSWERS.—1. That depends upon circumstances. In some places there is a good fall flow and no feeding is needed. In other places there is nothing to be had after the middle of August. If they are to be fed, I should prefer feeding just as soon as I felt it was settled that they wouldn't get enough themselves for winter. This year I commenced feeding some of mine before the middle of August.

As to the how, there are a good many

ways. The best way is to take full frames of honey from other hives that can spare them, and give to the needy colonies. Very likely you haven't such combs. Then you can feed sugar syrup in any of the ways given in the books.

If you have the time for it, you can set the syrup at the entrance on a warm evening after the bees have stopped flying, and take it away before they commence flying in the morning, if any is left. It will probably be more satisfactory to use a good top feeder, like the Miller feeder, which will allow you to pour in the feed at the top without the danger of any bees being in the way. This will hold 25 pounds of syrup, and you can give them enough to do at one dose.

2. It is certainly a good plan to feed in spring if they are at all short of stores, but if they are well stocked I am not so sure you will gain anything by feeding.

3. They'll make comb any time when they are gathering, and lack comb room.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.

Time and place of meeting.

1894.
Oct. 4.—Utah, at Salt Lake City, Utah.
Jno. C. Swaner, Sec., Salt Lake City, Utah.
Oct. 10-12.—North American, St. Joseph, Mo.
Frank Benton, Sec., Washington, D. C.
Sept. 11-13.—Nebraska State, at Lincoln.
L. D. Stillson, Sec., York, Nebr.
Sept. 15.—S. E. Kansas, at Bronson, Kan.
J. C. Balch, Sec., Bronson, Kans.
1895.
Jan. 28.—Venango Co., at Franklin, Pa.
C. S. Pizer, Sec., Franklin, Pa.
Feb. 8, 9.—Wisconsin, at Madison, Wis.
J. W. Vance, Cor. Sec., Madison, Wis.

In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

PRES.—Emerson T. Abbott....St. Joseph, Mo.
VICE-PRES.—O. L. Hershiser....Buffalo, N. Y.
SECRETARY—Frank Benton, Washington, D. C.
TREASURER—George W. York....Chicago, Ills.

National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—Hon. R. L. Taylor...Lapeer, Mich.
GEN'L MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.
147 South Western Avenue.

One-Cent Postage Stamps we prefer whenever it is necessary to send stamps for fractions of a dollar. By remembering this, you will greatly oblige us.

OUR DOCTOR'S HINTS.

By F. L. PEIRO, M. D.

McVicker's Building, CHICAGO, ILL.

The Father and Son.

My dear old boy, you'll not take it amiss if I call your attention to a subject nearest your heart, and very close to mine, will you? But you haven't forgotten that we were boys, together, many years ago, and now we are old "daddies" we should not overlook the great need of our boys' best interest. How natural we should think them almost perfect, in health and wisdom, hence requiring nothing.* Dear Charlie, that is the great mistake most fathers make! Now let us just consider the facts—'twixt you and me.

I need not remind you of our antics when we were boys? From mere toadlings, what an amount of spirit, fun, and trouble, too, we've had, eh? You'll admit that frequent loving counsel from our fathers would have been a good thing—a very blessing—in our after years! But, no; our fathers were always preoccupied—too busy with crops, money and study—the curse of the present day! If only they had studied their boys more! Their individual trend; their special tendencies, their natural adaptation; their besetting inclination, whether for good or error! Ah, yes, our fathers meant well, but what is said of good intentions? That "hell is paved" with them!

It is not enough, my dear old friend, that we be blessed with boys; there comes a fearful responsibility with their gift, and we may not overlook it, dear Charlie; we must render an account of their stewardship as well as our own! Not enough that they be fed, that they be clothed, but their minds and hearts must be directed in the better way. This is best done *singly*, remember that. As each have special gifts, individual desires, and personal inclinations, so must we study each his peculiar bent.

Your Fred is as unlike Charlie as George is unlike the boy you named after me—(you old blessed!)—Frank. Each have a heart full of longings, of aspirations—and all have their sainted mother's love! God be very near and dear to each one! Those noble boys remind me of vessels, trim and beautiful, launched on the sea of life. They

need—O so much—a *pilot*! What better fitted helmsman on their earthly voyage than he of strong arms and big heart—their father? The duty is awarded to you, which should be more precious than any other worldly preferment—and I know it is, dear Charlie!

Then see to it, jealously, that your words of encouragement be *frequent*, the more often, the less need for reproof. Make each feel the love you bear them; let your advice be to them *individually*, not collectively. Be not ashamed to affectionately caress your boys—but do it *singly*, else they will feel “girlish,” and evade you. It is then your words, made eloquent by your tender love, will sink deep into each of their hearts, an enduring sentiment for life to come. Placed in this attitude you are easily enabled to direct them against every besetting sin.

It is in these silent moments of personal communion that you can point out the physical and moral danger that lies in the reading of certain books, in their hiding in lonely places, in their late rising and late retiring, in promiscuous companionship with boys who may not be physically and morally clean. Show them the best way to keep out of temptation. Keep them always *near* you. To this end you must make your home—their home—even more attractive than now. Let your “living room” be large; hang chaste and beautiful pictures on the walls; have enough book-shelves made, and keep them full of good, instructive books and magazines; let there be games that your boys may play, and call in their mates to the enjoyment. Make of yourself one of the most active in their pleasure. Remember a boy’s longing for *refreshments*, and make a point to have something for each; apples, cookies, even bread and jam are relished, but be certain to supply *something*, if only a few ginger-snaps or crackers. The old adage regarding men is equally applicable to boys—you often reach their hearts through their stomachs! At a reasonable hour dismiss the assembly with your heart’s blessings, that they may retire for the rest they need, and greet them with a cheery “Good morning, children;” no matter how large they may have grown—they are always our “children.”

You will all the more attach them to their home if you will allot to each the

pleasure of flowers here, fruit-trees there, an arbor over yonder, each his very own, to plant and to care for. Encourage their generous regard for the beasts of your field, by giving Charlie the colt, Fred the young calf to raise; Frank prefers a shepherd dog, and George would like that lamb—to do for as they wish.

Let nothing occur to break faith with those boys—a broken promise forever relieves you beyond their confidence and your influence over them! Farsighted Jesuits have said, “Let me have your boy until the age of seven, and you can have him for life afterward;”—implying that they could inculcate deep-rooted principles in those young years that no subsequent training could eradicate, and they are correct. Be you equally wise, dear Charlie, in so forming and moulding their young minds that they may avoid evil, and bless their father for the precepts and examples that directed them aright.

Good Honey-Sellers will likely be needed now, and the little 32-page pamphlet, “Honey as Food and Medicine,” has for years proven itself valuable in making repeated sales of honey. Its distribution will create a demand for the honey first, and then the bee-keeper can follow it up and supply that demand. Send to us for a sample copy, only 5 cents; 10 copies, post-paid, 35 cents; 50 copies, \$1.25; or 100 copies \$2.00. Try 50 or 100 copies, and prove their ability to aid you in disposing of your honey at a good price.

Profitable Bee-Keeping, by Mrs. Atchley, will continue for some time in her department of the BEE JOURNAL, at least each alternate week. Until further notice we can furnish the back numbers from May 1st, beginning with her “Lessons,” to new subscribers who pay \$1.00 for a year’s subscription to the BEE JOURNAL—that is, we can commence their year with the number having the first lesson, if they so desire.

Honey as Food and Medicine is just the thing to help sell honey, as it shows the various ways in which honey may be used as a food and as a medicine. Try 100 copies of it, and see what good “salesmen” they are. See the second page of this number of the BEE JOURNAL for description and prices.

“The BEE JOURNAL is a necessity, I think, to a practical bee-keeper, and very interesting to any one, as I can cheerfully testify.”—A. M. Creel, of Missouri, May 1, 1894.



CONDUCTED BY
MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,
 BEEVILLE, TEXAS.

PROFITABLE BEE-KEEPING.

Lesson No. 9.

(Continued from page 207.)

GENERAL WORK IN THE APIARY.

We will take up in this lesson some items of general work, and try to ascertain how to do certain things.

SIGNS OF QUEENLESSNESS.

We will first tell how to know a colony is queenless when there is a large colony, and we have not time to search very long. If the hive has been queenless some time, or beyond the period where it cannot rear a queen—I mean by this a colony that has no brood or eggs—they become discouraged, and if we watch closely we can tell on opening the hive, as they will be scattered all over the combs, and no general work going on. Then, as soon as the hive is opened, it seems that every bee sets up a mourn, a slow buzz of the wings, making a low humming sound. This is almost a sure sign that they are queenless, and I can tell almost without an exception when a colony is queenless when I first open the hive.

Then we have another queenless sign, when the queen has been out but a short while. The bees will come out and crawl up the front of the hives, and fly away a short distance and return to the hive, and begin a call as it seems, calling for the queen, and to show her where home is. This the bees will do sometimes constantly for a week, after they find their queen is not with them.

I had better here mention the few exceptions to this, as some bees never mourn for their queen at all, and show no queenless signs outside of the hives, and really I have met a few cases where the bees never would start a queen-cell

or mourn after their queen was taken out, and bees are always poor cell-builders that do not mourn for their queen.

Of course you all are to understand that queen-cells are nearly always a sure sign of queenlessness, but not always. At swarming time, and when bees have an old queen that they wish to supersede, they will start queen-cells with a queen present, but when we have a knowledge that a hive had a young, prolific queen, and no swarming is expected, then queen-cells are a sure sign of their being queenless. But when we open a hive, and the bees are all centered together, or in a compact shape, and the combs looking clean and the bees quiet, etc., then we may be pretty sure they have some kind of a queen.

GETTING STRAIGHT COMBS.

Now, should you be short of foundation at swarming time, or at any time when the bees are building combs, and you wish straight combs, see that the first two or three combs are started straight, and then keep an empty frame between two of the combs started, and have the hives level from side to side, and you will get nice, straight combs.

HIVING NATURAL SWARMS.

In hiving natural swarms, or any other swarms where you wish to have the bees go in at the entrance, always put a few bees in at the top, close the cover, and as soon as they begin to call, or buzz their wings at the entrance, then you can jar or smoke the whole swarm into the air, and they will enter the hive, if you will keep a smoke at the place where they were clustered, for a few minutes. The main thing in hiving bees this way, is to get a "call" at the entrance, and they will then hive themselves.

TO PREVENT ABSCONDING.

To keep bees from absconding when they have been hived, give them a frame of unsealed brood and eggs—not sealed brood. This is the best remedy I ever saw, and never in all my life have I had a swarm to abscond when I gave a frame of unsealed brood, honey and eggs.

I gave this plan to a beginner about ten years ago; he had been losing swarms, and he gave frames of sealed brood and sealed queen-cells, and their swarming fever was high, and they would come out every day and settle on a limb. He came over and said my remedy was no good—they came out

just the same. When he told me his bees settled on a bush near by each time, I suspected something wrong, as bees coming out of a hive and absconding after they have been hived usually go right off without settling, the same as if they had started off a limb; and some swarms have been reported going right off to the woods from the parent colony, but this I never saw, and it may be these parties were mistaken, and it was swarms that had been hived in new hives that came out and went right off.

Well, back to our frame of brood keeping swarms content. I went over to the neighbor's and found that he had not only given frames of sealed brood, but with sealed queen-cells as well, and the bees came out as any natural swarm, leaving enough bees to care for the brood, and did not all go. So I changed things, and gave frames of unsealed brood and no queen-cells, and there was no more swarming out.

There may be instances where bees will come out and leave unsealed brood, and also bees may occasionally come out of the parent hive and go straight for parts unknown, when there is nothing for them to alight upon, but I have never seen them do either.

HOW TO CONTROL THE BEES.

The main thing for a beginner to do if he or she wishes to make a success of handling bees, is to smoke a few puffs right in at the entrance, before the hive, or anything about the hive, is touched. This will give you complete control of the bees, no difference how bad they may be to sting—Cyprians not excepted.

I have known lots of beginners to throw down everything in disgust and quit bees entirely, just by going to the hives and prying the cover up the first thing; the bees of course covered the operator, and the air filled with mad bees; when, if the bees had been smoked at the entrance first, all would have been well.

The next lesson will be Honey-Plants and Honey-Yielding Trees that we get our surplus from.

JENNIE ATCHLEY.

(To be continued.)

"Foul Brood; Its Natural History and Rational Treatment," is the title of an interesting booklet by Dr. Wm. R. Howard, of Texas. It also contains a review of the work of others on the same subject. It is being sold at the office of the BEE JOURNAL. Price, postpaid, 25 cents; or clubbed with the BEE JOURNAL for one year—both together for \$1.15.



When and How to Feed for Winter.

Query 938.—White clover, about the only source of surplus here, is a dead failure this year, my hives are nearly empty of stores, and I expect to feed for winter.

1. When should I feed?
2. How fast should I feed? as fast as the bees will take it, or how?—Illinois.

1. The sooner the better. 2. Consult your convenience.—A. J. COOK.

I have fed so little that I do not feel capable to answer.—JAS. A. STONE.

1. The last of September. 2. As fast as the bees will take it.—R. L. TAYLOR.

1 and 2. See "A B C of Bee-Culture," or "Cook's Manual."—J. H. LARRABEE.

1 and 2. Feed in late September or October, as fast as the bees will take it.—J. A. GREEN.

1 and 2. Feed in October as fast as they will take it. Feed sooner, if necessary.—DADANT & SON.

1. August or September. 2. Yes, provided you can do so without exciting them to robbing.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

There may be a fall flow. One year our hives were filled full the last ten days preceding frost.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

1. September. 2. I prefer to give one feed a day, if they will empty the feeders that often, until they have enough.—S. I. FREEBORN.

May not your bees get enough fall honey to winter? If not, feed. 1. In September. 2. As fast as they will take it.—EUGENE SECOR.

1. If the bees can make a living, you can wait until September, or early in October. 2. Feed as fast as they will take it.—E. FRANCE.

1. Feed once, and in sufficient quantity to keep the colony alive. 2. Feed fast enough so that you will have ample stores to carry the colony through the coming winter.—J. E. POND.

1 and 2. I would feed some *now* to promote breeding, if necessary. Then in September, unless they were gathering abundantly from fall flowers, I would feed rapidly for winter.—J. P. H. BROWN.

1 and 2. If there is no hope for any fall honey, I should feed each colony what they will need for winter during August. 1. Just before sundown. 2. As fast as the bees can take care of it.—C. H. DIBBERN.

1. The earlier the better, if you know they'll get nothing more, unless it be that by feeding later laying is kept up. September is late enough. 2. I've always fed fast, getting all taken in 48 hours. It may be better to feed slow.—C. C. MILLER.

1. Let them feed themselves as long as possible—something may open up for them yet. 2. At this time of the year I should feed moderately, but in September, for winter stores, give in the evening all they can care for during the night.—Mrs. J. N. HEATER.

1 and 2. I feed when the bees need it, but according to my theory of wintering, there is no necessity for bees having liquid food in the winter. I can winter them with less trouble and expense, and more certainty, on hard food. The method is too long for this column.—EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

1 and 2. As a rule, it is bad policy to feed during the breeding season—after it has once well commenced. Fall flowers will surely give your bees something to live upon, and the buckwheat crop should help them some. The time to feed is immediately after the "fall flow"—feed them "as fast as the bees will take it."—W. M. BARNUM.

1. Syrup made of 15 pounds water brought to a boil; 30 pounds of granulated sugar stirred in the above, and brought to a boil again; set from fire and stir in 5 pounds of extracted honey. This makes the best food for winter I know of, and should be fed in September, after most of the brood has hatched. 2. Feed as fast as the bees will take it.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

1. I would feed early enough so the bees could store and seal up the combs before cold weather. 2. I would feed so as to allow the bees to take in all you give them at nightfall. I have fed a gallon or more at a time, and the bees sometimes work slow when too much is given. They seem to take down the feed with more zeal when fed each evening.—Mrs. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

1. If you have cheap extracted honey, it may be well to feed that. If not, sugar syrup is as good as or better than honey. Granulated sugar is generally recommended, but I prefer A coffee. It does not granulate as quickly as the granulated, and it is just as good. 2. If the colonies are weak, feed slowly to promote breeding, and when you have bees enough feed rapidly.—M. MAHIN.

1 and 2. See that your bees have enough to keep them "in good heart," by feeding them a little at a time, until after the first killing frost in the fall, then proceed to feed each colony until they have about 25 pounds of stores to winter on. Give the food as fast as the bees can handle it. But I hope you will be agreeably disappointed, and your bees will get fall honey to winter on.—G. W. DEMAREE.

Convention Notices.

UTAH.—The Utah bee-keepers will hold their semi-annual convention on the Oct. 4, 1894, at Salt Lake City, Utah. JNO. C. SWANEY, Salt Lake City, Utah. Sec'y.

WISCONSIN.—The next annual meeting of the Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Madison, on Feb. 8th and 9th, 1895. Madison, Wis. J. W. VANCE, Cor. Sec.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Venango County Bee-Keepers' Association of northwestern Pennsylvania will hold their 2nd annual meeting in the City Hall at Franklin, Pa., on Jan. 28, 1895, at 1 o'clock p.m. All interested send for program. C. S. Pizer, Sec. Franklin, Pa.

THE NORTH AMERICAN B.-K. A.—The Quarter Centennial Meeting of this Society will be held at St. Joseph, Mo., on Oct. 10, 11 and 12, 1894. It is the first convention of the North American Association beyond the western bank of the Mississippi, and large delegations from the great West will be present. We hope the East, the North and the South will gather with them. FRANK BENTON, Sec. Dept. Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

NEBRASKA.—The next meeting of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Lincoln, Neb., on the evenings of Sept. 11th, 12th and 13th, 1894, at the Honey Hall on the State Fair grounds, and in connection with the Bee and Honey Exhibit at the State Fair. An invitation is extended to every reader of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL to be present and sample the good things presented. York, Neb. L. D. STILSON, Sec.

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BRACE-COMBS, AND THEIR ADVANTAGES.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

It has been with much interest that I have read all that has been said *pro* and *con* by way of arguments, experience, desires, wishes, etc., along the line of wide and thick top-bars for the frames, to do away with brace and burr-combs, all, or nearly all, seeming to think that it would be a great advantage to "be rid of such a nuisance," or, at least, most who have written on this subject seem to think that these little bits of comb between the top-bars to the frames, and those between the top-bars and the sections, cannot be anything else than a nuisance. I admit that they are often an annoyance in the manipulation of the hive, but instead of considering them a nuisance, I consider these same bits of comb a great help, and for years I have allowed them to remain on the top-bars of my frames, just because I considered them of value; that is, I consider them of more value than they are an annoyance or disadvantage. Were I working an apiary for extracted honey, I might change my mind a little, perhaps, but for comb honey I would not allow any one to scrape them off my frames, or substitute thick top-bars in their places for 50 cents per hive.

Years ago, I thought of them as most people do to-day, considering them a nuisance, and not knowing of the thick top-bar project at that time, I scraped them off in the fall when I prepared my bees for winter; thus doing away with them until the next season, when the sections were on again, and the bees built them in during the surplus flow of honey. This I did until one fall, through an extra amount of other work, I did not get time to go over more than about two-thirds of the apiary in preparing for winter, guessing at the rest, or what amounted to the same thing, weighing the hives to come at the amount of stores they had, instead of inspecting every frame, as I usually do, so that I may know for certain just what each hive contains. Previous to this I had used the Hill device, or something similar, to give the bees a passage-way over the combs during the winter, as is so often recommended to be used under the bee-quilt; but frequent examinations during the winter satisfied me that these brace-combs, which I had heretofore taken so much pains to remove, answered every purpose of such a device, besides being much cheaper, as well as requiring no room in my shop, or lugging back and forth from shop to apiary both spring and fall, which they required when used; while with these brace-combs the frames were never misplaced in putting in and out of the cellar, as was sometimes the case where I had taken all off as above given.

But their greatest advantage appeared when I came to put on the sections, for the bees seemed to consider them as little ladders on which to climb up into the sections, for it was a very noticeable fact that the bees entered the sections much

the sooner where these brace-combs were left than they did those where they had been removed; and, if I correctly remember, I so wrote in the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* at the time, advising all to remove the brace or burr combs from the bottom of the supers, but not from the frames.

The next year I tried the same experiment again, and so on for several years, until at last I became thoroughly convinced that these combs added largely to my crop of comb honey by leading the bees into the sections much sooner than they otherwise would go.

Now, some may say that it is no use getting the bees into the sections as soon as the first honey comes in; but I claim that this has very much to do with our crop of comb honey. It is not that the first three or four pounds of honey stored in the sections could be sold for so much cash that I wish it placed in the sections, although that might be quite an incentive where a person kept 500 colonies, the same amounting to about a ton of honey in that case; but all my past experience teaches me that, for every pound of honey stored in the brood-nest at the commencement of the season, or honey harvest, there will be five pounds less stored in the sections that year. Let the bees once commence to store honey in the brood-nest thus early in the season, and they are loth to enter the sections at all, and, instead of giving us lots of section honey, they will keep crowding the queen from the brood-cells more and more, storing them full of honey, until, when fall comes, we have little honey for market, and our bees in poor shape for winter.

Then, again, these thick top-bars, which are used to do away with these brace-combs, place a barrier between the brood-combs below and the sections above, instead of forming ladders to lead the bees to the sections. Who has not noticed that where an inch or two of sealed honey intervened between the brood in the hive and the tops of the frames, that the bees were much more loth to go into the sections immediately on the first appearance of honey from the fields, than they were when the brood came up all along the top-bars to the frames? This was one of the claims for the contraction of brood-chambers in the interest of comb honey, that where contraction was used the brood must come close to the bottoms of the sections, and, so coming, the bees were in the sections in a twinkling when the honey harvest arrived. I doubt not but what all will be free to admit that an inch of sealed comb honey would be a better leader to the sections than an inch of wood, as is now proposed. When we come to fully understand this fact we shall see that, wherein these brace-combs are the means of having our bees enter the section sooner, just in that proportion are they of value to us.

Try the experiment, brethren, and see if, at the end of such a trial, you will not be willing to put up with the inconvenience they cause you, for the sake of their great value.

Borodino, N. Y.



SOME SUGGESTIONS FREELY OFFERED

BY "BEN THERE."

O if I were a bee-keeper, what mighty things I'd do! Yes, I would. Every hive should be systematically placed, and all surroundings would conspire to a big honey crop! You thing not, eh? Well, let me outline my ideas, and if then you say, from reasonable reflection, that I am "all off," I'm a tenderfoot if I ever peep again!

I would first make a map—yes, sir, that's what I said—a *map*, of my surroundings, and hang it up on the wall for reference. So far—say, 40 yards—from the house, I'd place my bees, fronting east—a colony every six feet one way by as

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many feet the other, so that I could work all around them. The exact location would be—if I had one—not far from fruit-trees, for both winter and summer protection. There would be no spot near them that would not be covered with honey-producing plants! Yes, sir; I'd have a regular lawn for them of white clover, and I'd spade up the very fence corners to plant catnip, horse-mint, pennyroyal, blackberries, raspberries, and every good thing that would grow up and choke the weeds down. Then, too, I'd see that there was a fairly deep hole in a shady corner of the "bee-field"—a miniature pond—where the bees could find drink; and not far from it I'd contrive a tin box to put salt in it, to help them in their work; kept covered from the rains, a handful will last a long time. You are just puckering your lips to say, "Put salt on their tails!"—but no matter.

O you think my ideas are too "fancy" and impracticable, do you? Well, I submit that it is quite as proper and easy to raise a lot of useful plants that bees can feed on and store honey, as to let that great heap of weeds grow rank, to seed yours and your neighbor's land! Besides, a rich lawn, or meadow, if you so prefer to call it, is not only good for the bees, but looks well, retains moisture in the ground, and is useful for hay. The weeds, the pigs won't eat!

Bees may be kept as houses are kept—in an attractive or slovenly way. It is just as easy to keep our surroundings nice, as slipshod. Besides, we owe a debt of encouragement to our neighbors in right-doing, we'd better pay as we go along.

"You wouldn't have the *time*," hey? Well, I'd *take* time, just as I would to eat and to sleep! Suppose the mechanics, and the farmers, and the good housewife, were to say *they* haven't the time to do things as they should be done? How would their work, their crops, and her house look? It is a fact that the better a thing is once done, the easier it is to do it afterward, *and it pays!* Perhaps *you've* been so slack in your methods that you feel you couldn't do differently, but wouldn't you *try* if there was more *money* in it? Well, I guess yes! You just start in right, and you'll stay there, because you will enjoy much greater pleasure, comfort and profit.

There, if you don't admit the force of these *facts*—why, I'll keep thinking you ought to!



VARIOUS NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BY DR. C. C. MILLER.

The editor of the "Old Reliable," on page 200, adds insult to injury. "Squirm as he may," he left the impression that shoes alone covered my feet, and now he says he couldn't "expect to see through cowhide shoes." Cowhide! He'll find a *cowhide* awaiting him if he ever ventures in these parts!

As to a contracted form for AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, I don't like Am. Bee Jnl. Isn't A. B. Journal better? Just as short, and whether you read it in its contracted form or in full, it's all right. [All right, Doctor. But you might as well make it "Am. B. Journal," and then it would be satisfactory enough.—EDITOR.]

1,250 pounds of honey from one colony (page 201) takes the lead. But isn't there a possibility of a mistake, with not the least intention to deceive? Some years ago I learned to be a little skeptical with regard to the yields from some of my own colonies. A number of swarms would come out about the same time, then two or three go back to one hive. A big yield would result, but it would hardly be from one colony. Of course, there may not have been anything of the kind in this Australian case.

Pres. Abbott seems all waked up to some kind of necessity as to larger meetings of the North American, but like the rest of us, he's rubbing his eyes without seeing very clearly what ought to be done. The plain truth is that the meetings are largely local, and that the membership is confined almost exclusively to those who actually attend. The "representative delegate" idea that Pres. Abbott urges is good as far as it goes, but I doubt if he can bring it down to county societies. And how often is there anything that a society wants to instruct a delegate to vote for? Questions in practical bee-keeping are the most important things at a convention, and on such things it is not often that a man should be instructed beforehand how to vote. If I am not mistaken, the way some of the large memberships are secured in other countries is to have such advantages accrue to a member that he will be glad to pay his membership fee even if he doesn't attend. What inducement is held out for me to become a member if I don't expect to attend?

Doolittle says (page 209) that you can tell whether bees are queenless by giving them unsealed brood, when, if they are queenless they will start queen-cells. Nearly always that's good proof of queenlessness, but there are exceptions. This summer I introduced a queen to No. 28, and on looking a few days later I found a number of queen-cells started. I said at once, "They've killed their queen." Looking farther, however, I found the queen all right. I also found queen-cells in No. 1, whose queen had not been changed for a year, and as they were post-constructed cells, I was surprised to find the queen all right. In both these cases, however, I think the bees supposed there was danger of the queen being destroyed, as in the case of No. 1 a number of foreign bees had been added.

What a difference a little thing like a comma sometimes makes. On page 211, 2nd column, line 4, "three strips of wood—one wide, one on each side, and a narrow one....." puzzled me for a time. You see four strips are enumerated instead of three, but if you drop out a comma and make it "one wide one on each side," then it's all right.

That plan of W. C. Lyman is quite interesting. The plan given by T. I. Dugdale I can endorse from actual trial. Possibly the Lyman plan is better. But why not merely leave a hole for drones to get out, without any escape? The escape may prevent bees from using that place as an entrance, but what harm if they do?

Now comes F. L. Thompson (page 213) as champion of those troublesome things—closed-end frames. I have one colony in them, and I dread to touch the sticking things. And yet, and yet. Between you and me I've a kind of a notion that the colony does a little better on account of being in those frames. You see it's a good deal as Bro. Thompson says—there's no big hallway at each end of the hive to keep things cold, but all is closed up as tight as in a box-hive. Good joke on us if we'd all work toward closed-ends some of these days.

I wish Dr. Hicks had given chapter and verse where in Holy Writ we read that honey was prominently used as a medicine.

W. H. Morse's advice to plant linden or basswood is good. There are two ways to get the thing done without much expense. One is to get other people to plant them for you. Suppose you want to plant 100 trees. Of course you must get your trees before you plant them. Now when you have got them, if you give half of them away to people that want to plant shade trees within a mile of you, it will be just about as well as if they were on your own land. Or, you can sell them at a bargain.

Another way is to go to your nurseryman and agree to pay so much a hundred for him to put in a stock of young basswoods in his nursery. It will then be to his interest to dispose of those trees to be planted as shade-trees.

I've sometimes wondered what made John F. Gates always so jolly. Perhaps the explanation is on page 216—he's a Sunday-school man. But you needn't worry about Bro. Clarke, John. Now that he holds only as a kind of possible notion that sting-trowel theory that he formerly gave out as a fact, he'll not be so spunky if any one touches it.

Marengo, Ill.



THAT WINTER PROBLEM AGAIN.

BY A. G. AMOS.

In reading Mr. J. E. Pond's article, on page 116, in regard to wintering bees without protection, I thought I would relate a few circumstances which have come under my observations.

The last two winters I have packed all my bees in chaff except two hives each winter, and these were 1½ story 10-frame hives, all very strong in bees and honey, and they also had the supers replaced, filled with chaff after the sections were removed in the fall. As a result, these bees either froze or dwindled away in the early spring. While the loss of the colonies that were packed in chaff was quite heavy, yet I am in favor of chaff packing.

Again, I was called on in the spring to transfer a colony of bees for a friend, as I was informed by him that the colony had thrived and sent out large swarms for the last two years, but they always went to the woods, and were lost. If I were to try to describe the hive they were in, I am afraid I could not do it justice, so I will give a faint idea of it by saying that it was composed of two rims made out of coarse old hemlock boards, each rim about 10 inches high and about 17 inches square, with a board laid on top, and as it was not wide enough, a piece of old oilcloth was laid over it. This constituted the top. And as for ventilation, I am sure they had plenty, for the bees were working out of the top, bottom, and all four sides. The entrance under the edge of the cover was equivalent to a hole ½x5 inches; yet the bees wintered out-doors, and the only protection they had was a stone-wall on the north side of them; and I will say that at the time I transferred them they were stronger in bees than any in my own yard.

What does the above prove? It certainly proves that bees will live and prosper with as little care as any animal; but to be profitable they must have care and protection the same as other stock.

Delhi, N. Y., Aug. 4.



PURE AIR AND PURE FOOD FOR WINTER.

BY C. W. DAYTON.

Referring to Mr. Theilmann's experience as related on page 438 of the BEE JOURNAL for April 5, 1894, I would say that, though bees in a cellar of low temperature lowly murmur, it may not necessarily be an indication of contentment. I believe impure air to be the cause of noise. Cold, being a stronger element, makes them quiet, but, none the less, they must keep up warmth. It has been said that to expose a cluster of bees to zero weather the outside bees will move toward the inside of the cluster, and those inside will change to outside. Then, as the temperature rises, this movement decreases until it stops somewhere about 55° or 60° above

zero. No matter how rapid or slow this movement, it causes no "roar;" only a gentle "murmur."

Then from whence comes the roaring? When we begin to smoke bees they begin to fan with the wings, and, consequently, begin to roar. If we attempt to blow smoke in at the entrance of the hive, they instantly set up a violent fanning of wings which forces the smoke out again. At the same time there is a roar. They roar also while evaporating honey, because there is a fanning of wings to create circulation of atmosphere. This may be a roar of contentment, but the other is certainly a roar of discontentment, and there probably is no ear which can distinguish one from the other.

There also is a fanning of wings to drive out impure air, or, more correctly, to change air, which they may suspect may injure their stores, if not themselves, and which, in truth, it may.

If the smoker is turned upon a cluster where the bees are more or less stiffened with cold, they will move their wings very little. To fan would increase the cold and exposure. Although this is a condition of greater quiet, how could there be one of more discontent, namely, by coupling with it improper stores? It may require some lapse of time to note the effects of poor food. In fact, it may require a lapse of time to be affected by this changing of positions in the cluster, or the fanning of wings, but all three—poor nourishment, activity and labor—wear away their vitality the same as an unsheltered horse or cow, which must exercise to keep up sufficient warmth, comes out in the spring thin in flesh.

Some writer has advanced the idea that bees, when poorly wintered, lose flesh or adipose. Be this as it may, all know that they are sometimes wonderfully short-lived after being removed from the cellar. With the best of stores, and no symptoms of diarrhea, there gets to be few bees in the colonies, and they are supposed to have dwindled because of old age. Low temperature of the cellar may keep the bees in the hives, but pure air prevents the desire to fly out.

In case the bees cluster closely in the center of the brood-nest, the rest of the hive contains cool air, without being drawn in by respiration. At the point where the cool air and the warmth of the cluster meet, condensation on the combs of honey takes place. Sealed or unsealed, water gets into it and ferments, and the bees consuming it, brings disease.

In a right temperature, the bees do not cluster compactly, but stand upon all parts of the combs containing honey, and the air that is drawn into the hive is at once freighted with respiratory impurities, and forced out again.

Nearly all colonies which we find to have starved, are also found to have been the driest, cleanest and strongest in the lot. Not having much stores, it was more likely to be covered with bees, which protected it from the condensation of moisture, and preserved their good condition.

Florence, Calif.



THE PRESENT OUTLOOK—MARKETING, ETC.

BY B. TAYLOR.

In early spring the season of 1894 promised to be one of the best in many years for bee-keepers. The weather was favorable, and one of the main stand-bys for honey—white clover—abounded everywhere. There were frequent copious rains, and we were justified in predicting an old-time yield. But after all these cheering signs, drouth set in at the beginning of summer, and at this date (July 31st) yet holds sway. There has been but one moderate shower for many weeks, and the commonly green grass of our lawn is in some places as dead and brown as

the dusty public road near by. Corn is shriveled, and garden vegetables small and drooping. Buckwheat is prematurely turning brown, and wild flowers have nearly disappeared, making it certain that there will not be a large fall flow of nectar. This may seem discouraging talk, but it is true, and truth is always in order. Unfavorable summer weather could dispel the bright prospects of spring, but no possible fall conditions can restore the dead flowers again this year. So we had better look the situation straight in the face, and make the best possible use of it.

In our own yard we shall remove all surplus supers early, and let the bees have a chance to fill the brood-nest with winter stores, if any nectar is to be had. During dry times honey-dew is most plentiful, and we have no fears for winter stores; but if colonies are found light, they should be fed early, and made ready for safe wintering.

Our readers will remember that in the past we have been expressing our belief that a paying surplus could be had even in a poor season, by a proper understanding of the business and thorough preparation, so as to take the best advantage of all opportunities. This season gave us an opportunity to practice what we had preached. Basswood was the only source of surplus here this year, the bloom was fairly plenty, and lasted about two weeks. By strict attention early in the season, we had our colonies strong at its commencement, and our new hobby of sections of finished combs all ready. We have secured a paying surplus crop this poor season; that is, we have at least 50 pounds per colony of splendid white honey, and that pays us well for our labor. But for the preparation named we are quite certain we should have gotten little or no surplus, as we have visited a very intelligent neighboring bee-keeper who has 100 fine colonies of Italian bees, but they were managed in the usual way and gave no surplus. In years past a good crop of surplus honey was in our locality quite a certainty, with fair management, but each year it seems to be less certain, and better methods have become a necessity if we are to make it pay. These bad years only compel higher skill and greater knowledge.

THE MARKETING OF THE HONEY CROP.—For years we have advised bee-keepers to cultivate local markets. There are many risks in shipping comb honey, especially to distant markets, with the facilities and skill for crating properly possessed by the average bee-keeper. But little comb honey ever reaches its destination without damage and loss to the producer. For some years we have made special effort to introduce extracted honey in our own local markets, and by having our goods of the very highest quality, we have in three seasons easily established a demand for all the liquid honey we can produce. The same can be done in each locality, provided none but first-class, properly cured honey is offered. We advise taking a sample of the honey for testing, visiting the best families in town and country, taking orders and delivering the goods, being careful to have the honey equal or better than the sample. In this way we find a market for all our extracted honey at 12½ cents per pound. Comb honey can be sold in the same way. This year the crop is so small there is no need of any haste in selling, and those who rush to sell for the first offer are sure to suffer loss.

PREPARING THE BEES FOR WINTER.—It is none too early for the wise bee-keeper to begin preparations for winter. This season is such that unless early and wise precautions are taken, there is sure to be heavy loss in the coming winter. Each colony should be examined to see that it has a good queen, and then fed a few ounces of sugar syrup or honey daily until the 15th of September, so that brood-rearing may be kept up, and hives stocked with young bees for winter. We should not lose faith in our pleasant calling on account of this poor season. The cause was

climatic, and after we have done *our* duty all must bow to wind and waves. Agriculturists and horticulturists have suffered equally, or even more than the bee-keeper. Let us prepare to renew the battle all along the line.—*Farm, Stock and Home.* Forestville, Minn.



BEE-BUZZINGS FROM BILTMORE.

BY ROBERT PESTELL.

Agreeable to the request made in the BEE JOURNAL of July 26th, asking: "What have you learned this year in your apiary? Have you discovered any new kinks (or is it kicks) that are worth knowing?" I will endeavor to contribute my portion.

Biltmore, as many of the readers of the BEE JOURNAL may know, is the name given to the estate purchased by Mr. Geo. Vanderbilt, and is situated near Asheville, N. C. The Baron de Alingo has the entire management of the agricultural operations here. He has, by his intelligently directed energy, made the once barren hill-sides and unkempt valleys to blossom like a veritable Arcadia. Not until last autumn did he lay the foundation of an apiary—some 30 colonies occupying dove-tailed hives, being then purchased. Upon my arrival here, early in April last, I found 17 colonies of the 30 living, they being in a very weak condition. The severe frosts during the latter days of March rudely stripped the forest landscape of its spring garment, reducing it to its winter costume, thereby utterly destroying all outside bee-provender, so that it was only through the medium of heavy artificial feeding that the bees were kept going. The continued drouth during the late spring and early summer kept the thermometer of our honied hopes at a low ebb, which has since, however, been raised almost to set fairly a most bountiful sourwood harvest, which we are yet enjoying.

The colonies have been increased from 17 to a present number of 46, principally by nuclei and introduced queens. This increase, with the addition of some considerable quantity of surplus honey, is encouraging.

The accompanying sketch is one I have made of an old-time log-constructed farm-house—one of the few old-timers remaining on the estate—where a portion of the apiary is located. The barrels shown in the illustration have been committed to the cellar preparatory for a brew, no further indication of bee-paralysis showing. (See Mr. Thompson's article on barrels used as a cure for bee-paralysis, published in the BEE JOURNAL of July 19th.)

Not a great distance from the old-fashioned homestead stands the palatial residence of Mr. Geo. Vanderbilt, now nearing completion, and occupying a commanding situation overlooking the lovely and exceedingly fertile Frenchbroad valley which is framed by a chain of Blue Ridge Mountains, bathing their sylvan-clad summits in a soothing mist of azure. Through the valley meanders, like a silver band, the Frenchbroad river, seemingly kept in bounds by the walls of the forest which nestle on its brink. Traversing the woodlands of the valley are many miles of undulating and gracefully, yet decidedly curved, carriage drives, which have been surveyed and constructed under the direction of Mr. Geo. J. Weston. Their windings constantly unfold to the vision of the traveller fresh vistas of forest grandeur.

Over this lovely landscape, and under a canopy of the bluest of blue skies, buzz the bees of Biltmore.

Biltmore, N. C., Aug. 5.

[The pencil "sketch" mentioned above was received with the article, and, as Mr. Pestell says, truly represents "an old-time farm-house."—EDITOR.]



The East Tennessee Convention.

BY H. F. COLEMAN.

The attendance at the East Tennessee Bee-Keepers' Convention at Whitesburg, on Aug 16th, owing to the meeting of a Baptist association near by, was not what was expected, but was fair. The bee-keepers present had a jolly good time, and spent the day pleasantly. Brother Webb, of Sutton, whose presence was expected, from some cause was not there, and we failed to form his personal acquaintance, but he will probably attend our next meeting.

Your correspondent had the pleasure of testing several samples of persimmon honey, and found it to exceed his expectations. In color it is a golden yellow, and its flavor and density are all that can be wished. Brother Root, no doubt, would enjoy a sample of it.

By special invitation we visited the home and apiary of W. A. Lee, of Three Springs. Mr. Lee is a model farmer of East Tennessee, and is one of the farmers that make bee-keeping pay. His apiary consists of only 26 colonies, but they are managed so nicely that they yield a profit every year. The idea that bee-keeping cannot be made profitable by farmers is a mistake, as is verified in this instance.

The Feathers family at Whitesburg entertained the bee-keepers, and we found them all truly interested in bee-culture.

We will speak more of the proceedings of the Association later.

H. F. COLEMAN, Sec.

Sneedville, Tenn.

Central California Convention.

BY J. F. FLORY.

A special meeting of the above Association met in the City Hall at Hanford, on Aug. 1st, to discuss the question, "How to dispose of our honey to the best advantage."

President Hart called the meeting to order, and the Secretary then read the minutes, which were accepted. Most of the day was taken up with the question of marketing, and the amount of tare that should be deducted for the cases. There wasn't the least inclination manifested by any to consign any more honey for the present. The sarcastic thrust at some of our commissioners was anything but pleasant, while those who have dealt fair are also brought to public notice.

THE QUESTION OF TARE.

In extracted honey none wished to sell wood for honey, but serious objections were made to knocking off tare for cases, cans, and then several pounds of honey besides, as we have done in three carloads of honey sold in the last ten days. Cases generally weigh 10 pounds, while an occasional one weighs 12 pounds. And to cover the weights of all, to avoid the weighing of each case separate, as was resolved by the State Association at Los Angeles last January, that we add 10 or 20 per cent. to the average case, so as to cover the full weight of all cases. And to let the buyer know that we wanted to do nothing but what is fair. Upon motion it was unanimously decided that we deduct 12 pounds per case for tare, and no more.

As the cases for comb honey vary in weight, it was decided by motion that they be weighed, and 10 per cent. of their weight be added to them for tare. On the price of honey, viz.: 4½ cents for bright amber, at which price the three carloads above mentioned were sold, and it was unanimously decided, on motion by a standing vote, that inasmuch as the crop of California is the shortest known for many years, and from the latest accounts in the East, that their crop was also short, that we are not getting market value for our honey, and that we will not sell for less than 5 cents until our next meeting, on the first Wednesday in September; and that the Secretary inform the different honey-dealers of this fact, as well as that we have a fine lot of honey for sale.

During noon the Secretary placed on the table samples of N. D. West's queen-cell protector, queen-cages, and his improvement on it for the safe introduction of queens; and samples of beeswax made by his improved solar wax-extractor. Through a mistake the extractor was not brought. Also sample hive with honey in clamped sections with wide frames, just as taken from the hive, to

show with what ease the honey can be handled, and how clear and free the sections are from gum and glue. Mr. Stearns, of Selma, a large comb-honey producer, remarked that the Secretary could not keep his sections so nice and clean with his bees in this country, to which he replied: "There is an occasional colony that will daub and soil anything."

Many other minor points were discussed to the interest of the association.

During both the forenoon and afternoon meetings the Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and a number were not able to gain admittance, yet it was decided that not one-half of the beekeepers in this and adjoining counties were present.

Notwithstanding the desperate and unmerciful attempt made several years ago to expel the bees as a public nuisance from Kings, then part of Tulare county, it was clearly manifested, from the bee-men present, that the little busy bee will bring in a larger revenue into this section of country, at least this year, for the amount of capital and labor invested, than any industry we have.

On motion it was decided to adjourn, and meet again at our next regular meeting, viz.: the first Wednesday in September, at Selma, Fresno county.

J. F. FLORY, Sec.

Lemoore, Calif.

Queens and Queen-Rearing.

If you want to know how to have queens fertilized in upper stories while the old queen is still laying below; how you may safely introduce any queen, at any time of the year when bees can fly; all about the different races of bees; all about shipping queens, queen-cages, candy for queen-cages, etc.; all about forming nuclei, multiplying or uniting bees, or weak colonies, etc.; or, in fact, everything about the queen-business which you may want to know—send for Doolittle's "Scientific Queen-Rearing"—a book of over 170 pages, which is as interesting as a story. Here are some good offers of this excellent book:

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Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

The Thompson Hive.

I would like to tell D. S. M. (see page 171) that he can't well use the sections or any of the improved surplus cases on the Thompson hive. If I had two dozen Thompson hives, or a whole apiary of them, I would discard them at once for some of the popular modern hives—the so-called dovetailed, for instance, is superior to it in every respect.

G. H. ALLEN.

Alderson, W. Va., Aug. 20.

Too Dry and Hot for the Bees.

Bees in this part of the country have not done very well on account of starvation, caused by the drouth and hot winds. There was no name for it, all summer, until lately we had some good rains. Corn will be a small crop. Some on the hills and late planting is drying up. A good many bees have died here, but those that revived are doing well now.

FRANK HENTRICK.

Wall Lake, Iowa, Aug. 22.

Some Big Yields of Honey, Etc.

We have had a regular boom of honey this year. Those who live in the mangrove regions have done the best. One bee-keeper with 100 colonies has taken 30,000 pounds—an average of 300 pounds to the colony; and another with about 50 colonies averaged 400 pounds per colony. Saw palmetto gave a big yield, and then another good flow of mangrove. Last year was a total failure of mangrove, and next year may be as bad, but we all have to take the seasons as they come. I have an apiary in Iowa that has not yielded a pound of honey.

A friend used a tablespoonful of sulphur per colony for bee-paralysis, and

thinks he has cured it. Your correspondents do not say how they apply it, or how much.

G. W. WEBSTER.
Lake Helen, Fla., Aug. 20.

[We would be glad to have those who have found the "sulphur cure" a success, explain its use, for the benefit of our readers.—EDITOR.]

A Fair Yield of Honey.

My honey crop averaged 50 pounds of comb honey to the colony. I have 52 colonies.

HOMER SCOTT.
New Hudson, Mich., Aug. 15.

Good Crop Expected Yet.

Bees in this locality, bordering on the Ohio River corn lands, began storing the surplus on Aug. 1st. Farmers in our vicinity have given up their corn, it being all burnt out on account of not having rain. This leaves us all the smartweed and fall flowers to grow and thrive and produce nectar for the bees. The flow is very heavy, one colony having stored 24 pounds of comb honey in 7 days. All comb honey on the market here is from honey-dew, also some alfalfa—'93 crop shipped from Nevada. However, this finds slow sale, on account of being partially candied. Therefore we shall have a good market for our crop, which ignominiously failed to "show up" prior to this date. The farmer's misfortune is my good luck. I shall therefore get a very good honey crop, and expect at least 5 tons this season yet, as we always get a heavy flow in September.

J. C. WALLENMEYER.
Evansville, Ind., Aug. 10.

Bees Did Well—Convention, Etc.

My colonies have done well for this season. They gave me a surplus of 350 pounds of honey up to this date—211 pounds being extracted. This honey was from sourwood. The sourwood honey-flow was extra good in this section.

On Aug. 16th I boarded the train at Greenville for Whitesburg, to attend the East Tennessee Bee-Keepers' Convention. When I arrived at Whitesburg, Bros. Coleman and Feathers met me at the train, and conducted me to the home of Dr. Feathers at that place.

After we had rested, and examined Mr. Porter Feathers' bees, we assembled at 10 o'clock in the Methodist church.

We adjourned for dinner till 1 o'clock. Some of us took dinner with Bro. Feathers. We had a fine dinner, for which we return many thanks to them.

Mr. Porter Feathers is a young beekeeper just beginning. He has 12 colonies in fine condition.

I have worked for honey and against increase. I also worked my bees for wintering. I had no swarms this season. There have been some swarms in this section, but they were mostly in July. I have heard it said this way:

"A swarm in May
Is worth a stack of hay.
A swarm in June
Is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm in July
Is not worth a green fly."

A. C. BABB.
Greenville, Tenn., Aug. 18.

Had a Poor Honey-Flow.

I have 20 colonies of bees. We have had a poor honey-flow this season. My average is not more than 10 pounds per colony.

N. S. WILL.
Rowlandville, Md., Aug. 20.

Quite a Light Crop.

The honey season started with exceedingly bright prospects, but the drouth made short work of the apiculturist's fond hopes, through this locality. We had no rain for 8 weeks, till yesterday (Aug. 19) when we had a grand refreshing shower. The honey crop here is quite a light one.

J. A. GOLDEN.
Reinersville, Ohio, Aug. 20.

A Lady's Experience With Bees.

It has rained quite hard within the last half hour—the first for weeks, consequently we have suffered most terribly from drouth, pastures brown, corn drying up on the upland, without forming ears. And how the poor bees have made a living for several weeks past, is a mystery, but I think they made good use of the time during white clover bloom, and yet only the strongest colonies, and those that did not swarm, gave any surplus.

On account of the drouth last fall, my 8 colonies were short of stores, yet by feeding some they came through the winter, but the new colonies were very weak, so they have been all summer building up. I divided one strong colony, and bought a 2-frame nucleus and a tested five-banded queen, and she has